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December 7, 1999

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Donna Shalala, Secretary
U.S Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala:

I am writing to **express** concern about the possible weakening of labeling requirements for irradiated food which is being considered by the Food and Drug Administration. I believe strongly that it is my right to know if the **food** I buy has been treated with radiation (or genetically modified).

Food products undergo chemical changes **after** exposure to radioactive isotopes. These nutritional and cosmetic changes in the **foods** warrant disclosure on a prominent place on the package. Also, food which is not packaged should be accompanied by a poster in plain view of where it is displayed for sale. Labels are required by law to be truthful and not misleading to the customer. **Only clear**, honest and **permanent labeling** is **acceptable for** irradiated **foods**.

I trust that you will **defend** the consumer's right to know in this important decision-making process.

Sincerely,



Marjorie W. Spencer

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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1038/C4851

See File Number: 92N-0139/C6414